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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 1 October 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Viotti ..... (Brazil)

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08-52844 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

1. **The Chairperson** said she took it that the Commission, in accordance with its established practice, wished to hold an open meeting.

2. *It was so decided.*

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/3/GNB/2)

3. *The agenda was adopted.*

Adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/3/GNB/L.1/Rev.1)

4. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the Draft Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/3/GNB/L.1/Rev.1), which had been developed in a consultative process over the past several months involving all major stakeholders. She took it that members wished to adopt the Draft Strategic Framework.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **Mr. Barbeiro** (Guinea-Bissau), speaking on behalf of the Government by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that the efforts of the United Nations with the cooperation of the national authorities were making peacebuilding possible in the country and hoped that the Strategic Framework would be accepted by all the stakeholders involved. The main priority for the people of Guinea-Bissau in terms of peacebuilding was the forthcoming legislative elections. The support of the United Nations and all other partners would be needed to carry them out and to reach the other objectives outlined in the Framework. He invited all partners to review that document, which provided the context for major Government programmes for 2008-2009. The Government of Guinea-Bissau was ready to discuss any issues that they might wish to raise.

7. **Mr. Omoregie** (Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau) recalled the great effort and persistence that had led to the inclusion of Guinea-Bissau on the Commission's agenda in December 2007. The Strategic Framework provided a medium- to long-term platform for the formulation of strategies for sustainable peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau and the mobilization of resources for an integrated approach to post-conflict reconstruction and development. Drafted by the Government and the Commission's Technical Committee, it had been coordinated by the Ministry of the Economy and also incorporated input from civil society, including women's groups and other national stakeholders, the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau and other international partners. It had been drawn up and finalized through extensive consultations carried out since December 2007.

8. National strategies included the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and other frameworks for Government and national cooperation activities in a multitude of sectors. The Strategic Framework addressed the priorities of elections and capacity-building for the national electoral authorities, measures to revive the economy and rehabilitate infrastructure, security and defence sector reform, strengthening the justice sector and combating drug trafficking, public-administration reform, and pressing socio-economic issues. The document incorporated national action plans and strategies, and also took into account bilateral and multilateral cooperation activities between the Government and partners within each priority sector. The Commission's engagement with Guinea-Bissau would be a major support and assistance mechanism for ensuring the transition from post-conflict reconstruction to peace consolidation.

9. The Strategic Framework was fully owned and supported by the Government and national counterparts. The greatest challenge for the international partners was to ensure a high degree of policy and programme coordination in the advice and assistance provided to Guinea-Bissau. That included efforts to assist Guinea-Bissau in conducting credible elections, implementing security sector reform, combating drug trafficking and organized crime, and embarking on socio-economic reform. The Framework could be used as a tool for guidance, investment and assistance to Guinea-Bissau to yield maximum returns. The international community had shown exemplary support and commitment in assisting Guinea-Bissau and would need to augment those efforts in the future to ensure the full implementation of the Strategic Framework.

10. Guinea-Bissau's peacebuilding priorities would be a daunting challenge for national and international partners, regardless of the Government in place, requiring a heightened level of attention and commitment in terms of policy and funding. The Peacebuilding Fund had received funding of $6 million to assist Guinea-Bissau with four short-term projects in

the areas of electoral support, youth employment, and rehabilitation of prisons and military barracks. Those projects would yield immediate dividends in peace consolidation, serving as a catalyst for the medium- to long-term assistance to be provided under the Strategic Framework and as a confidence-building measure for the national population. The Commission should continue to strive for national ownership and continuing commitment, close consultation and cooperation between partners and the Government, and smooth coordination of the efforts of international partners.

11. **Mr. Lacroix** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union was involved in a number of ways in supporting the stability and development of Guinea-Bissau, including through a recent mission to Guinea-Bissau by the special representative of the Presidency of the Union. There were still many challenges ahead, as the situation in the country remained fragile. The increase in food prices and the recent cholera epidemic had exacerbated a situation that was already difficult and where political tensions persisted. All actors in Guinea-Bissau should continue their efforts with the support of the international community.

12. In the coming weeks, the Commission should try to finalize the tracking and monitoring mechanism for the Strategic Framework, so that a link could be made between the commitments set forth in the Framework and their implementation in the field. It would be useful to identify the stages and indicators that could be used to measure progress. The European Union was very attached to the implementation of the national strategy for reforming the security sector, which was fundamental for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau and looked forward to hearing the Minister's comments on that area.

13. The European Union's mission to Guinea-Bissau in April was part of the European policy for security and defence and had given advice and assistance to the Government. The mission had dealt with defence, police activities and justice issues and had also assisted the Government in its efforts against drug trafficking. The European Union was aware of the huge scale of that challenge for the Government and called on the international community to increase its efforts. It welcomed the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) initiative to organize a ministerial conference on regional cooperation in that area. Lastly, he stressed that the legislative elections in November were a critical stage for establishing democracy in Guinea-Bissau. The Commission had played an important role in the preparatory phase and should continue its support over the next few weeks.

14. **Mr. Salgueiro** (Portugal) said that adoption of the Strategic Framework was a significant starting point, and it was now very important to agree on how to implement the tracking and monitoring mechanism referred to in section VI of that document, which provided precise benchmarks and indicators. That mechanism should be finalized in October. The next stage was the legislative elections, followed by a donor conference in 2009. There were also a number of outstanding issues to deal with, including quick-impact projects which had not yet been implemented.

15. The Government should provide information on progress made with regard to the security sector reform; the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the army; youth employment; and the rapid provision of income-generating activities. The Strategic Framework contained very precise recommendations for monitoring and review, and the Commission should focus on a six-month period at a time. The first task was to establish the tracking and monitoring mechanism and concentrate on helping the Government to finalize the election preparations and to complete some of the quick-impact projects.

16. **Mr. Heller** (Mexico) said that he appreciated the efforts made by the authorities to ensure national ownership of the entire process, which was one of the pillars of the Commission's mandate. The political climate was conducive to stabilization with the recent creation of the new Government in August. The Strategic Framework was essential as a catalyst for mobilizing national and international actors for the legislative elections in November in the context of a secure, fair and transparent electoral process.

17. The Government and people of Guinea-Bissau were making commendable efforts to bring about institutional, political and social stability, despite the current challenges. The adoption of the Strategic Framework was an important step in the peacebuilding process. Mexico supported the cooperative principles contained in the Framework, such as national ownership, mutual accountability and a close partnership between Government and international stakeholders, and encouraged the Government of

Guinea-Bissau, the Commission, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions and other international partners, civil society, the private sector and religious communities, to meet their commitments in that regard.

18. National cohesion was essential for ensuring that timetables were met and that there was financing to cover the basic needs of the peacebuilding process. He called on contributing countries to consider debt forgiveness or restructuring for Guinea-Bissau and to promote cooperation that would encourage the country's development. The electoral and other challenges facing the country required the full support of the configuration and of the different national and international partners. As a follow-up to the visit to Mexico in July 2007 of the Representative of the Secretary-General, the Mexican Government had decided to send experts from the Mexican federal electoral institute to assist the national authorities in Guinea-Bissau with the organization and holding of the November elections.

19. In the longer term, that cooperation would contribute to capacity-building of the electoral institutions in Guinea-Bissau. The terms of reference for that assistance should soon be ready. Other areas for Mexican cooperation had also been identified, including security sector reform, the war on drugs, social integration and anti-poverty programmes. The adoption of the Strategic Framework provided motivation to move forward, and work should continue towards the prompt establishment of its monitoring mechanism. The catalytic effect of those two elements should be reflected in greater commitment and greater contributions from the various stakeholders, including in the financial sector.

20. **Mr. Yañez-Barnuevo** (Spain) said that the Commission would continue to function with great dynamism, in close contact with the authorities of Guinea-Bissau. Priority should now be given to the November legislative elections. It was essential to help the national authorities and the international organizations involved to ensure that the electoral process was peaceful, open and transparent. He expressed concern at the financing gap for the completion of electoral registers, the civic education campaign and training for electoral personnel, inter alia. Spain had provided a voluntary contribution of 500,000 euros for the electoral process and also hoped to participate in establishing electoral machinery and institutions in Guinea-Bissau that would serve for future elections, including the presidential elections in 2010.

21. **Mr. Lima** (Cape Verde) said that the Strategic Framework was a detailed, well-organized document that accurately reflected the situation in Guinea-Bissau, the country's huge needs and the willingness of stakeholders to take action, while also setting out what needed to be done to change the situation for the better. The principles that it contained were essential for guiding action to achieve the various projects already launched.

22. A huge effort was, however, now needed to complete those projects, and in that regard funding was a major concern. Guinea-Bissau was at a defining moment in its history and desperately needed a lifeline. Funds must therefore be quickly disbursed and commitments met; otherwise, there was a risk that all the efforts made to date would be wasted and the Strategic Framework would simply fall by the wayside.

23. The credibility of the Peacebuilding Commission and all partners in the peacebuilding process was also vital. People on the ground needed to be able to see that genuine progress was being made, and it was essential for them to have confidence in their partners in order for the situation to be transformed. The full implementation of the Framework by all stakeholders would allow Guinea-Bissau to resume its position as a sovereign state with much to contribute not only to the West Africa region but also to the whole African continent.

24. **Mr. Sow** (Guinea), stressing the quality of the Strategic Framework, said that his delegation welcomed the rigorous analysis of priorities, challenges and risks on which projects were based, as well as the focus on the regional and subregional dimensions of peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau. Mutual commitments were well-targeted, with a clear division of responsibilities between the Peacebuilding Commission, the Government of Guinea-Bissau and other stakeholders. The Commission had already achieved progress since starting work in Guinea-Bissau, and the US$ 6 million from the Peacebuilding Fund allocated since April for peacebuilding initiatives in that country was particularly welcome.

25. Guinea-Bissau continued to face major constraints, however, with a US$ 9 million financial gap still to be covered in the electoral budget and only

43 per cent of resources necessary for the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy having been secured to date. Guinea-Bissau was also one of the most highly indebted developing countries, with public external debt estimated at three times the country's 2006 gross domestic product (GDP). It should therefore benefit from full debt relief.

26. Guinea-Bissau also faced major energy constraints, in respect of which international partnerships were increasingly vital, while its resources in the security sector — particularly critical for strengthening the role of the army and police in fighting problems such as cross-border crime and drug trafficking — also fell far short of what was needed. In view of those constraints, it was time for action, based on the mutual commitments contained in the Strategic Framework. Such action was also essential for the stability of the whole West Africa region.

27. **Mr. Ney** (Germany) said that the adoption of the Strategic Framework represented a major step forward in consolidating the situation in Guinea-Bissau and would guide the future work of the Peacebuilding Commission. The next step — to establish a tracking and monitoring mechanism — should be taken immediately. His delegation supported the main priorities identified in the Framework and in the report from the Chairperson's visit to Guinea-Bissau in September 2008. Three essential points should be highlighted. Firstly, it was crucial to prepare for the November 2008 legislative elections, to which end Germany had contributed financially to a United Nations Development Programme voter education project.

28. Secondly, after the election it would be important to concentrate on strengthening the public administration of Guinea-Bissau, especially its security and justice sectors, in order to consolidate the rule of law and combat drug trafficking. Thirdly, the reform of those sectors was also important to create a favourable environment for economic development and give the youth of Guinea-Bissau greater employment opportunities. His delegation was willing to provide further support for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in Guinea-Bissau and, in view of the commitment of that country's Government, was optimistic about the prospects for a successful outcome.

29. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica) said that his delegation welcomed the dedication, commitment and cooperation shown by the Government of Guinea-Bissau and its international partners and the high priority given to national ownership in the Strategic Framework. He cautioned, however, that the successful implementation of the Framework would require both the Government and its partners to make robust efforts to overcome the many challenges faced, including through the provision of timely and effective funding for quick-action and other projects.

30. Budgetary support for the Government of Guinea-Bissau was critically needed in a number of areas, inter alia, to cover the salaries of the country's police and security forces so that the problem of drug trafficking could be effectively addressed. The development dimension of the Framework, reflected in paragraphs 20 to 25, should also be emphasized since peacebuilding would be difficult without a firm economic foundation.

31. **Mr. Antonio** (Angola) said that the Strategic Framework reflected the major concerns of Guinea-Bissau. It was clear that the document had also been analysed in depth in that country, in accordance with the principle of national ownership. As already stated by other speakers, the time had now come to implement the Framework, which was the most difficult stage. His delegation supported other speakers in calling for international partners to help Guinea-Bissau to close all the gaps identified in the Framework. That would require a coherent approach by all partners. A monitoring mechanism was also important to measure the extent to which the various stakeholders had completed their task.

32. **Mr. Ishize** (Japan) said that the timing of the Chairperson's visit to Guinea-Bissau, following the change of administration, had been particularly opportune and productive in terms of providing important information that had helped to strengthen cooperation between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Peacebuilding Commission by facilitating the adoption of the Strategic Framework. While the adoption of that document represented an important milestone for the Commission's work in Guinea-Bissau, immediate concerted efforts were now needed to implement the priority areas identified in the Framework, especially with regard to the November elections.

33. At the same time, the international community, in cooperation with the Government of Guinea-Bissau, should closely monitor developments on the ground. His delegation wished to express its intention of contributing actively to such a joint endeavour, and in the short term would like to participate in discussions on the establishment of a tracking and monitoring mechanism as a key tool for implementing the Framework.

34. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg) said that her delegation welcomed the clear commitments made by the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the international community in the Strategic Framework and reiterated the importance of establishing a tracking and monitoring mechanism to measure progress, as already highlighted by the representative of France. That endeavour would engage all stakeholders and, in that connection, her delegation particularly welcomed the role envisaged for civil society in the Framework. The ECOWAS ministerial conference to be held in Cape Verde later in 2008 was also important, given the significance of the regional and subregional dimensions of peacebuilding.

35. **Ms. Hulan** (Canada) said that her delegation would fully support the implementation of the Strategic Framework. Its six main objectives reflected the pressing needs of Guinea-Bissau, and the strong emphasis on the elections was appropriate. Nonetheless, the ongoing political tensions in Guinea-Bissau, as already mentioned by the representative of France, underscored the importance of broader democratic development efforts on the ground, including political-party development and greater citizen engagement in decision-making.

36. Since such efforts could not be fully addressed by the elections alone, her delegation welcomed discussions to see how those dimensions could be fully taken into account through the monitoring mechanism. Canada looked forward to working on that mechanism to sharpen its focus and increase its specificity since, while aware of the perils of over-rigid benchmarks, it considered that realistic, concrete indicators would be needed for the Peacebuilding Commission to assess progress towards the objectives set out in the Strategic Framework.

37. **Mr. El Shinawy** (Egypt) said that it was necessary to reach a rapid agreement on the tracking and monitoring mechanism and to determine benchmarks for success. The regional dimension was especially important. The country-specific configuration for Guinea-Bissau should therefore keep all regional and subregional African organizations informed of developments in the implementation of the Strategic Framework. In the same way, it was vital that the Government of Guinea-Bissau notify the Peacebuilding Commission of any difficulties that arose.

38. **Mrs. Gallardo Hernández** (El Salvador) said that it was necessary to work towards achieving full implementation of the priorities established by the Strategic Framework, through integrated cooperation between the Guinea-Bissau authorities, civil society and the Peacebuilding Commission, in order to create the new climate of governance and development that was desired for Guinea-Bissau. As a post-conflict country, El Salvador had already contributed advice on institutional strengthening of the police force and engaged in exchanges of experience with the Guinea-Bissau military authorities regarding disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and it reaffirmed its commitment to continue with that contribution under the Chairperson's leadership.

39. **Mr. Somdah** (Burkina Faso), speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Framework and said that it was now vital to continue with existing and planned actions to meet the many challenges faced by Guinea-Bissau. Notwithstanding its own commitment, and the political and economic efforts already made, the Government of Guinea-Bissau still required substantial support from the international community. Ongoing efforts must be made to create a situation conducive for holding the elections and completing the reform of the security and justice sectors.

40. He encouraged the Guinea-Bissau authorities to continue their action to combat drug trafficking, while also urging the international community to support such initiatives, especially the Guinea-Bissau Government's three-phase Antinarcotics Operational Plan 2007-2010. ECOWAS remained committed to working alongside the Guinea-Bissau authorities in their peacebuilding efforts and electoral process.

41. **Mr. Komárek** (Czech Republic), noting the rapidity of the process and the new methods used, including informal thematic meetings that allowed

interactive participation by the Guinea-Bissau Government and other stakeholders via video links, said that the adoption of the Framework represented an important milestone for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau. The next logical step was to establish a tracking and monitoring mechanism, and his delegation fully supported the ambitious plan to adopt that mechanism by the end of October 2008.

42. As mentioned by several other speakers, the final preparations for the November 2008 elections were now the most urgent task. At the same time, however, the implementation of quick-action projects financed through the Peacebuilding Fund should be accelerated. The Peacebuilding Commission should use its special position to marshal resources and should also promote the coordinated involvement of the whole United Nations system in the peacebuilding process in Guinea-Bissau. The Czech Republic fully supported that process and, as well as regularly contributing to the Fund, it looked forward to enlarging its bilateral cooperation with the countries on the Commission's agenda, including Guinea-Bissau.

43. **Mr. Simanjuntak** (Indonesia) said that the adoption of the Strategic Framework had been the result of an extensive, nationally owned consultation process that involved all relevant stakeholders. It did not, however, mark the end of the process of engagement; the next stage was to establish the tracking and monitoring mechanism, and further adjustments might also be needed in future in accordance with the developing situation on the ground. Whatever lay ahead, the Peacebuilding Commission would be able to use the Framework to raise awareness, promote the strengthening of existing peace initiatives and generate new partnerships between the Guinea-Bissau Government and international actors.

44. **Mr. Appreku** (Ghana) welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Framework, recalling that his country had, in the face of opposition, supported referring Guinea-Bissau to the Peacebuilding Commission. However, the Framework established the primary responsibility of the Government and people, and the latter should include the opposition, the media and all branches of government. He wished to know to what extent those actors had been made aware of the Strategic Framework. It was also essential that a mechanism be put in place to settle any disputes arising from the elections, and to ensure that the outcome was not determined by drug money.

45. In view of the regional dimension of the issue, the Strategic Framework should be formally endorsed by ECOWAS and the African Union. A visit to those bodies from the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission might help galvanize support. In the same way, it was regrettable that the document PBC/3/GNB/1 made no mention of any commitments or recommendations involving regional organizations.

46. **Mr. Onestini** (European Community) said that the area of security required special attention. The European Commission remained committed to a number of relevant projects. In order to ensure coordination between agencies active in that area, a meeting of the Group of Friends of Guinea-Bissau Security Sector Reform would be held on 4 November 2008. The European Commission was also prepared to provide assistance in observing the elections.

47. **Mr. Tagle** (Chile) welcomed the Strategic Framework, and in particular its flexible character, which would make it easier to evaluate and fine-tune the peacebuilding process.

48. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) recalled that his country had taken part in preparing the Strategic Framework and was prepared to help implement it. It was now essential for all parties within Guinea-Bissau fully to respect democratic institutions, for the international community to honour its commitments, and for the United Nations promptly to establish the tracking and monitoring mechanism.

49. **Mr. Seck** (Senegal) emphasized the need to address emergencies in Guinea-Bissau, kick-start the economy and conduct successful elections, without which the Strategic Framework could not work.

50. **Mr. Shingiro** (Burundi) said that the adoption of the Framework marked a new phase in the peacebuilding process. However, it was important first of all to provide financial and technical support for the electoral process.

51. **Mr. Olukanni** (Nigeria) said that the Framework's recognition of ECOWAS and other regional organizations was positive. His delegation looked forward to cooperation between the relevant regional and international agencies.

52. **Mr. Boureima** (Niger) said that the Strategic Framework laid out clear principles, but that its success hinged on international funding, notably with regard to debt alleviation.

53. **Ms. Mbizvo** (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) said that the Office would report periodically on the implementation of the Strategic Framework and continued to act on the pledges of the Lisbon Conference. Work was being undertaken to rehabilitate select prisons. The necessary funds had been disbursed on 31 July 2008, but the agreement of the Ministry of Justice was still pending; it was expected in the course of the current week.

54. UNODC had purchased equipment for the Judiciary Police. New premises would be inaugurated in the following weeks, and a training course in Brazil was being organized for officers. The Executive Director of the Office had recently met with the relevant actors to discuss the obstacles to its work. A project office had been established in Guinea-Bissau in 2008. An anti-narcotics adviser was now based there, and additional staff and security would be made available. Given the special circumstances, exceptions to procurement regulations were being considered. UNODC was also addressing funding gaps: it had helped negotiate the financial assistance provided by South Africa. A videolink between the Office and the Peacebuilding Commission had been requested for the forthcoming country-specific meeting.

55. **Ms. Meyer** (World Bank) said that the Bank would liaise with the Peacebuilding Commission in order to foster synergies and avoid duplication. On 22 September 2008, it had approved a project funded through the Food Crisis Trust Fund and worth $5 million to help Guinea-Bissau address the food crisis. The first component of the project, to be implemented by the World Food Programme, would assist vulnerable groups. The second component, under the Ministry of Agriculture, would address medium-term food production.

56. **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) said that he was grateful to the Chairperson, the Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and everyone who had played a part in drafting and adopting the Strategic Framework. The document was based on the principle of national ownership and a spirit of innovation. It was an inclusive project gathering not only the Government but also civil society, women, youth and the various political parties. The current administration would continue the responsible work of the outgoing Government. There was every reason to believe that the elections would take place transparently and with widespread participation; the results would reflect the country's political maturity.

57. He hoped that the Chairperson would inform the Security Council of the content of the Strategic Framework, and also stress the significant contribution that would be needed from international partners. The Secretary-General was responsible for determining allocations for Guinea-Bissau; it was therefore important that he take into account the dimensions of the challenges at hand. His delegation was grateful to the World Bank for its project to aid Guinea-Bissau and noted that the question of energy had been recognized. The cholera epidemic had been caused by a lack of funds for public sanitation, but energy resources would be needed in order to channel water efficiently.

58. **Mr. Barbeiro** (Guinea-Bissau) said that the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding reflected the efforts of all Guinea-Bissau's partners to establish a process that would guide Guinea-Bissau in its peacebuilding efforts. The Government and people of Guinea-Bissau were prepared to assume responsibility for implementation of the Framework and everyone, including members of civil society, would be encouraged to participate fully in the peacebuilding process.

59. It was of the utmost importance to implement the Framework as quickly as possible; given the deteriorating situation in Guinea-Bissau, further delays, particularly with regard to quick-impact projects, could exacerbate the country's difficulties. An overwhelming majority of Commission members had stressed Guinea-Bissau's need for financial resources in order to implement the Framework.

60. In response to the point raised by the representatives of France and of the European Community, he said that the authorities of Guinea-Bissau would spare no effort in implementing and enforcing security sector reforms. With regard to the cholera epidemic, the authorities of Guinea-Bissau recognized the serious nature of the situation and, notwithstanding the economic difficulties facing the country, were taking appropriate measures to halt the spread of the disease.

61. Turning to the points raised about drug trafficking, he said that Guinea-Bissau had discussed and drafted a plan with its partners to bring drug trafficking under control; partners had already made some resources available. Drug trafficking was clearly acknowledged as an extremely serious issue and the authorities were striving to overcome the related challenges.

62. Guinea-Bissau encouraged the participation of civil society and had emphasized that the peacebuilding process needed to involve all the country's citizens. He noted that many members of civil society had not been able to attend the current meeting owing to the celebration of the end of Ramadan. The concerns voiced by the representative of Ghana on elections were legitimate, and he assured the Commission that the Government of Guinea-Bissau was entirely committed to ensuring that the elections would take place.

63. The most daunting task — deciding which political parties would run in the election — had already been completed. Sixty per cent of the conditions necessary to hold elections on the agreed upon date were thus in place. The election results would not be contaminated by drug money, as the Government was doing everything in its power to ensure transparency.

64. **The Chairperson** said that it was indeed important for the Commission to receive reassurance that elections would be held on schedule and that the Government was committed to the strategies defined with the Commission. The adoption of the Strategic Framework was a major milestone in Guinea-Bissau's history and would ensure the country's cooperation with the Commission on the basis of national ownership, mutual accountability and inclusiveness. Implementing the commitments contained in the Framework would make it possible to effectively carry out reforms, combat drug trafficking and revitalize the economy. Meanwhile, work on the tracking and monitoring mechanism of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding would continue; the mechanism would soon represent a critical task to be dealt with at country-specific meetings.

Other matters

65. **The Chairperson** said that, during her presentation at the Security Council meeting on Guinea-Bissau to be held on 3 October 2008, she would, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, highlight the adoption of the Strategic Framework and transmit the recommendations and conclusions made following her recent visit to Guinea-Bissau.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.